

Glimpsing the Glory of God: a study series for fellowship groups

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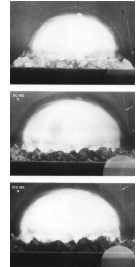
These studies are also available online at www.ebe.org.uk



The Christian life is about building relationships, rather than about adopting roles, and this series of studies is about coming to know God better and having a deeper relationship with him.

(2) Glimpsing God's Glory in Personal Experience

No-one knew for sure what the first atom bomb, detonated at a test site in Alamogordo, New Mexico, would be like, although an earlier test explosion of 100 tons of TNT mixed with fissile material had given some indication of the scale of disruption to be expected. Those who looked on as the world's first nuclear explosion took place (albeit tiny by comparison with the power of modern bombs) were several miles away and their eyes were protected from the brilliance of the flash by welder's goggles. Even so, the raw blast of heat that hit onlookers was an experience which they never forgot.



Read Isaiah 6:1-8

Q 1 What thoughts and feelings would members of the group have if suddenly receiving a vision of God?

Isaiah would have been familiar with the story of Moses who could not look on the face of God and live: nobody could (Exodus 33:19-20). Instead of being thrilled with what he saw, Isaiah cries: "I am ruined!" We should not be surprised at his concern for his own wellbeing (Is 6:5).

There were three components to Isaiah's vision:

- He saw the Lord seated on a throne
- He saw the Lord as high and exalted
- He saw the train of his robe filling the temple

Q 3 What do you think each of these taught Isaiah (and would teach us) about God's glory?

Q 4 Isaiah also saw the angelic beings that surrounded the throne. Does it appear that these added to the way that Isaiah felt at this time? Did they add to the picture of the glory of God? Should a knowledge of God's holiness affect the way we come to him in prayer?

The basis for Isaiah being able to remain in the presence of God is his being made right with the Lord. Once a year, in a special ceremony, the high priest made atonement for the people by entering the Holy Place (Leviticus 16:11-13). This was prophetic of the atonement (an Anglo-Saxon term meaning at-one-ment) provided in the death of Christ and now Isaiah experiences for himself, through the act of the seraphim, something of the foreshadowing of Christ's work.

Q 5 Do we have the confidence which we ought now to have in approaching the throne of God, through Jesus (Heb 4:14-16)?

There was a job to be done, and it was tailor-made for Isaiah to do, and when he heard the

question asked: 'who will go?'. His response was not 'send someone else' or 'I can't do it' but 'send me!'

Q 6 Why do we so often make excuses when there is a job to be done for God? Is it because we haven't been overwhelmed with a vision of God in all of his glory?

Let us ask God to help us discover in the coming days, more of his glory, holiness and power. And let us pray for opportunities to tell others about him this coming week, and for the courage to use them.

Next study: (4) Glimpsing God's Glory as the Way is Prepared (Isaiah 40:1-11)